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OCT 26 2004  
REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application  
filed on or after June 8, 1995.  
See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

RCE #

Application Number	09/726,380
Filing Date	December 01, 2000
First Named Inventor	Toshiaki OKUNO
Group Art Unit	2633
Examiner Name	Hanh Phan
Attorney Docket Number	50212-168

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office '47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☐ Previously submitted

i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on OCT 28 2004

(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on Technology Center 2600

iii. ☐ Other       

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☐ Other       

2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action of the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.1.03(c) for a period of        months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other       

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 500417.

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) \$790.00

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ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

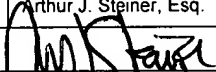
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iii. ☐ Other (additional claims, etc.)

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$        enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Arthur J. Steiner, Esq.	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	26,106
Signature		Date	10/26/04

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)		Date	
Signature			